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“Nostalgia for the Early Church in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Controversial Theology”

The contest over the character and culture of early Christianity that defines much early Reformation theology continued in different form in the century that followed. Protestant and Catholic historians sought to confessionalize the history of Patristic Christianity in their efforts to claim precedent for their own systems of thought. In this paper we will look at ways in which seventeenth-century Catholic theologians sought to counter both Lutheranism and Catholicism by appealing the early church and constructing a narrative of continuity for the Roman Church and a heresiology intended not only to disprove Protestant claims of conformity with Patristic precedent but to identify them with long-condemned heresies.